



# The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
*Washington, DC*

Laird, Kevin Bio  
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## **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KEVIN LAIRD** ***BIOGRAPHY***

Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Laird, Director of the Jazz Ambassadors of The U.S. Army Field Band of Washington, DC, is originally from Arcade, New York. He graduated from the State University of New York at Potsdam in 1976, earning a Bachelor of Music in Education, and in 1978 received a Master of Arts in Fine Arts Education from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University).

Mr. Laird enlisted in the United States Army in September 1978. Upon completion of the Basic Musicianship Course, he secured a position on the staff at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia. He spent five years at the School of Music, two years teaching theory and ear training, and three years as head of the combo branch. While there, he contributed to the development of the curriculum for combo instruction.

His next assignment was to the Continental Army Band at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he served for eight years as a percussionist, arranger, and leader of the stage band, the Continentals. Following his transfer to Heidelberg, Germany, in 1990, he was recommended for warrant officer. He completed the Warrant Officer Bandmaster Course in 1993 and assumed command of the 1st Cavalry Division Band at Fort Hood, Texas. In May 1997, he was appointed Associate Bandmaster and Director of the Jazz Knights of the United States Military Academy Band, West Point, New York. He became Director of the Jazz Ambassadors of The U.S. Army Field Band in August 2000.

Mr. Laird's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Ribbon. He is a member of the International Association of Jazz Educators and the Percussive Arts Society.